District Court. The Member referred to the following matters and prayed that the grievances of the people might be redressed.

Firstly, the Member objected to the location of the fish market in close proximity to the public privy in the Thirunakkara market. The privy was in the centre and the fish market was held on all the four sides of it. The Member prayed for the removal of the fish market from its present site to a less objectionable site.

The second complaint was that the number of wandering sick persons in the town was fast increasing day by day. The majority of such persons were coolies on the Estates at Peermade and other places, who fell sick on the Estates and subsequently managed to get away from there and reach Kottayam with difficulty. Their condition was pitiable and they had none to look after them. The Member, therefore, suggested that an asylum be opened for the benefit of such persons or that special arrangements might be made to get them treated in the Hospital.

The third point mentioned by the Member was the necessity of a Town Hall for the place. The absence of a Town Hall was badly felt by the citizens on special occasions such as the visit of His Highness the Maha Raja, Dewan, etc. The Member did not suggest that the Government should build such a hall for them. The people were ready to put up a building, but the site should be granted by the Government. He suggested that the required land might be found from the available areas of Government lands attached to the Vernacular School, the District Hospital or the District Court, at Kottayam. The local officers had also to be asked to co-operate with the people in building such a hall.

The Member next referred to the hardships experienced by the people of Kottayam in connection with the working of the Land Conservancy Regulation, IV of 1091. The authorities had begun to demolish costly and substantial walls and buildings adjoining the roadside on the strength of reports from irresponsible subordinates that such walls and buildings were erected on *poramboke* lands. The measurements taken by surveyors were unreliable. In certain cases, the area said to have been encroached upon was very small. There were several discrepancies and defects in the measurements recorded by the Revenue subordinates. In some instances, the fine realised for the so-called encroachments on *porambokes* had to be refunded to the alleged trespasser with interest in obedience to the orders of civil courts of competent jurisdiction. The Regulation was being used by the subordinates as a weapon to harass persons who did not happen to stand in favour with them. As the difficulties experienced by the people on account of the unsatisfactory working of the Regulation were real, the Member prayed that speedy action might be taken by the Government to redress their grievances.

Finally, the Member said that the Nagampadam Bridge had been reported to be closed to traffic for a period of one month and prayed that arrangements might be made to complete the repairs within one month instead of delaying the work and hereby putting the people to inconvenience.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

104. Desirability of transferring to the control of the Town Improvement Committee the village roads and tanks in the town after thorough repair.

Mr. A. Madhavan Pillai (Member, T. I. C., Changanacherry) said that, wing to the action taken under the Land Conservancy Regulation for removing enroachments on *poramboke* lands, the roads were filled with heaps of earth and ravel in several places. During the rainy reason the water would stagnate on the oad causing inconvenience to traffic. If the accumulations of earth at different laces were levelled and spread over the road, the condition of the road would be etter and traffic would be rendered easier.

For the supply of water, the Member said that it was very necessary that the oovakkattu *chira* should be improved.

Dewan.—I have seen this *chira*. What is the portion to be improved ?

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Member.—The *chira* extends over 11 acres and should be protected by stone walls and provided with bathing ghats. The water is good.

Dewan.—Do you say that the whole of the *chira* should have a wall?

Member.—The wall will be necessary only in some places. There is no other reservoir in the taluk. It is useful for all classes of people. The silt should be removed and bathing ghats constructed.

Dewan.—The Chief Engineer says there is no silt. I myself saw the *chira* in Vrichigom last. The water was clear then.

Member.—If the *chira* is seen now, it will appear muddy and covered with weeds.

The Member, continuing, said that, in the hot season, the *chira* became useless and he prayed that it might be improved and provided with bathing ghats.

He next said that the tank to the west of the temple known as the Vazhappalli Padinjarekulam and the Chithrakulam had no water during the summer months. If they were also improved, there would be sufficient supply of water for the town. The people raised some money by subscription and tried to improve the tanks. That was not sufficient. The Member requested that the Maramat Department be directed to effect the necessary repairs and that the tanks might be handed over to the T. I. C. after repair.

The Member also prayed that the village roads in the town might be repaired and handed over to the T. I. C.

Dewan.—As regards these roads, the Government had asked the major Committees whether they would undertake their maintenance with the allotted funds, but some of them were unwilling to take over the management of those roads.

Member.—The Committe at Changanachery are prepared to take up the maintenance with the allotment provided for it.

The Member, continuing, said that the Committee had a surplus of more than Rs. 4,000. He, therefore, prayed that the control over the village roads also might be transferred to the Committee.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

(3) Medical Relief.

105. The Travancore Medical Department.

Revd. Fr. A. J. Michael (Member, T. I. C., Kayankulam) said that the budget allotment for the Medical Department was Rs. 4,39,000, out of which Rs. 2,77,256 was intended for the salary and travelling allowance of the staff. Out of the balance, only Rs. 54,700 was used for the purchase of medical and surgical equipments, including medicines, instruments, ice, bedding, clothing and hospital necessaries, and Rs. 75,000 for dieting. As compared with other less important departments, the Medical Department had only a very small allotment. To increase the usefulness of the department, the Member made the following suggestions:—

(1) The present supply of medicines was not sufficient. The budget allotment for medicines, etc., should be increased by at least 50 per cent.

(2) At present, poor people suffering from disease and unable to attend hospitals became a prey to it for want of medical help. The Medical Officers in each station should attend, free of charge on all patients unable to go to hospitals, within a radius of 2 miles.

(3) The Medical officer should be regularly supplied with up-to-date professional books and journals.

(4) The Durbar Physician should inspect all the institutions at least twice in the year.

(5) Medical officers in charge of institutions should be directed to give periodical lectures to the public, at least once a month, on hygiene, first-aid-treatment and prevention and treatment of common diseases.

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